
Annual Reports.

TOWN OF MERRIMACK.

1859-60.

Telegraph Power Press Printing Office, Albin Beard, Printer.

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1860

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

S E L E C T M E N,

THE

OVERSEER OF THE POOR,

AND THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE TOWN OF

M E R R I M A C K,

FOR THE YEAR

1859-60.

NASHUA:

PRINTED BY ALBIN BEARD,

1860.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the citizens of the town of Merrimack :

Town valuation as taken April, 1859,	\$413,522 00	
261 polls, (\$2.40 each,)	62,640 00	
		\$476,162 00
Reduced valuation,		2,380 81
\$1000 pays on the inventory, \$6.40, \$100 pays 64 cents, \$1 pays 6 4-10 mills ; \$1 pays on reduced valuation, \$1.28.		
\$2,380.81 pays on reduced valuation,	3,047 43	
Gain on tax table,	40	
School-house tax, District No. 1,	24 50	
		<u>\$3,072 33</u>

The amount of assessments were as follows :

State tax,	305 90	
County tax,	540 27	
School tax,	874 00	
To defray town charges,	1200 00	
School house tax, District No. 1,	24 50	
Bearing money,	127 66	
Total amount of assessments,		\$3072 33
Received from railroad tax,	304 68	
“ “ literary fund,	109 50	
“ “ sale of old bridge plank,	24 20	
Borrowed from Joseph Wilson,	500 00	
Highway taxes committed to collector,	43 86	
		<u>\$982 24</u>
Total amount of assessments and receipts,		<u>\$4054 57</u>

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$84 52	
" " 2,	74 52	
" " 3,	186 52	
" " 4,	103 52	
" " 5,	73 52	
" " 6,	66 52	
" " 7,	84 52	
" " 8,	76 52	
" " 9,	96 52	
" " 10,	34 76	
" " 11,	72 52	
" " 12,	57 52	
		\$1011 48

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

County tax,	540 27	
State tax,	305 90	
		\$846 17

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid William A. Shattuck for damages arising from highway accidents,	20 00	
Jennia A. Shattuck for do.,	25 00	
Dr. T. Parkhurst for referee on above,	4 00	
Dr. H. Eaton for professional services,	4 50	
Edward P. Parker do.,	2 50	
Albin Beard for printing reports,	20 00	
Thomas Parker, car fare to pay State tax,	2 00	
Thomas Parker, stationery,	5 46	
Reuben H. Pratt, do.,	1 25	
County School Commissioner,	17 48	
Daniel T. Ingalls, warming town house,	2 00	
		\$104 19

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Abiel Holt for building stone abut- ment and repairing Robbins's bridge over Pennichuck Brook,	43 90	
Jotham Robbins, labor on do.	5 00	
Samuel W. Wright, plank for do.	2 21	
		\$51 11
Thomas J. Foster, surveyor, breaking roads last year,	8 37	
Ward Parker, do. do.	2 00	
Rufus Blood, labor on Ward Parker road,	10 75	
Rufus Blood, breaking roads,	6 67	

Oliver McConihe do. last year,	2 00	
Cha's H. Longa, do. do.,	3 00	
Freeman Nichols, do. do.,	3 00	
Abner C. Darrah, labor on highway,	10 56	
Abiel Holt breaking roads, overworking highway list,	8 50	
Henry Russell, overworking highway list,	12 00	
Solomon Woods, do.,	21 96	
Solomon Woods, breaking roads,	6 50	
Alpheus Goodwin, do.,	50	
Amos Harris, do.,	3 25	
James Fosdick, surveyor, do.,	16 77	
Jos. Hills, do., last year,	7 50	
Pierce & McQuesten, bridge plank,	11 18	
Henry N. Robbins, do.,	24 73	
James Kendall, laying do.,	2 32	
John L. Reed, drawing timber and breaking roads,	6 50	
		\$219 17

TOWN OFFICERS.

Daniel Sawyer, Superintending School Committee,	22 00	
Lucien Ingalls, do.,	22 00	
Administrator of Caleb Jones's Estate,	5 50	
Thomas Parker, Selectman,	56 50	
Abner C. Darrah, do.,	37 00	
Leonard Walker, Town Clerk,	10 50	
Elijah P. Parkhurst, Overseer of Poor,	24 00	
Reuben H. Pratt, Collector,	52 00	
Samuel C. Anderson, Treasurer,	6 00	
David Jones, Auditor,	1 50	
Daniel T. Ingalls, do.,	1 50	
		\$238 50

RECAPITULATION.

For Schools,	1011 48	
County Tax,	540 27	
State Tax,	305 90	
Poor off the Farm, (see Overseer's Report)	253 14	
Cash balance against Town Farm,	253 58	
Roads and bridges,	219 17	
Town officers,	238 50	
Contingent expenses,	104 19	
School District No. 1,	22 00	
Total, not including new bridge account,		\$2948 23
Amount of assessments and receipts to pay the current expenses of the year, not including new bridge acc't,		3054 57
Balance in favor of the town,		\$106 34

Town debt, March 1st, 1859,	406 82	
Abatements for 1858,	31 18	
Interest on notes and outstanding orders,	60 00	
		<u>\$498 00</u>
Amount in favor of the town on the financial business of the year, not including new bridge,		106 34
Total debt, not including new bridge account,		<u><u>\$391 66</u></u>

EXPENDITURES FOR NEW BRIDGE.

Paid James White for 110 feet of bridge,	1060 00	
“ “ “ “ pile driving,	43 75	
		<u>1,103 75</u>
Orders on the Town Treasurer to defray the expense of grading, and building new stone abutment:		
Elijah P. Parkhurst,	44 51	
Hartwell W. Green,	16 87	
Charles W. Dutton,	4 00	
Henry Blodgett,	3 12	
Henry Junkins,	2 25	
Alonzo Holt,	1 87	
Albert A. Junkins,	15 75	
Josiah Seaverns,	66 38	
Frank E. Hill,	12 12	
Samuel Fuller,	1 00	
Thomas J. Foster,	13 99	
Aaron B. Woodward,	80	
Richard H. Center,	3 12	
Luther W. Read,	5 25	
George F. Hill,	1 88	
Alfred A. Woodward,	4 00	
Simeon Wilson,	2 00	
John H. Coburn,	75	
Henry J. Wilson,	3 25	
Joseph Wilson,	13 31	
David T. Jones,	19 17	
Freeman Hill,	1 88	
Smith E. Fields, for labor and services as bridge committee,	37 42	
Thomas Parker, do.,	7 50	
Abner C. Darrah, do.,	9 00	
Abner C. Darrah, car fare and expenses,	4 07	
Hiram Brown,	3 00	
		<u>298 26</u>
Total cost of new bridge,		<u>\$1,402 01</u>
Amount assessed,	500 00	
Borrowed of Joseph Wilson,	500 00	
Due James White,	402 01	
		<u><u>\$1,402 01</u></u>

TOWN DEBT.

The total debt of the town is as follows :

Balance due James White, principal,	402 01	
Due Joseph Wilson,	500 00	
Interest on above to March 1,	36 00	
		938 01
Due on notes and town orders above what will be realized from the tax list, estimated at		391 66
Total town debt, March 1, 1860,		<u>\$1,329 67</u>

REMARKS.

In the foregoing report, your Selectmen are not prepared to congratulate the town in being free from debt. In drawing orders to meet bills presented for settlement, we have been actuated by a regard for the interest of the town, and in conformity with our oath of office. The town must meet bills which may legally arise from its available means.

The subject of winter roads, we feel, demands the notice of the tax paying citizens of the town. We are of opinion that money raised to defray town charges, should not be expended to meet the repairs of highways, as a general thing. Repairs on bridges will ever be a constant annoyance to the Treasury, and should be provided for with the general expenses of the year. We would suggest the idea of the town raising an additional highway tax of 50 per cent. to be added to the Surveyor's list in a separate column for a winter tax, with power to call for the same if needed.

Your committee for the building of the new bridge, after due deliberation, were unanimous in giving Mr. James White the contract to build the same after the pattern of Turkey Hill Bridge, and we feel justified in saying that Mr. White did justice to the town in fulfilling his part agreeably to contract; the expenditures of which we have given in the report, together with the financial standing of the town. All of which is respectfully submitted by

THOMAS PARKER, } Selectmen of
ABNER C. DARRAH, } Merrimack.

March 1st, 1860.

The subscribers having examined the foregoing report and books of the Selectmen, believe them to be correct and properly vouched for.

DANIEL T. INGALLS, }
DAVID JONES, } Auditors.

Merrimack, March 1, 1860.

ALMSHOUSE REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Chas. Campbell, for one yoke of oxen,	\$140 00
Butter, lard and eggs,	6 09
C. Boutelle, dinner and horse bating,	33
Butter, chickens, calf-skin, veal eggs,	11 88
S. D. Crosby, lodging and horse keeping,	75
Mr. French, 2 calf-skins,	3 30
Fisher, Nichols, Parker, and Weston, for veal,	4 53
Butter, eggs, and potatoes,	7 70
C. Boutelle, lodging and horse keeping,	75
D. L. Morrill, 1 calf,	5 00
Fuller & Robertson, one pair oxen,	130 00
Of Pedler,	25
S. B. Tyler, poultry,	2 47
Butter, potatoes and eggs,	8 83
Timothy Wheeler, boot between cows,	6 00
J. Follansbee, 2 heifers,	40 00
Lamb's skin,	62
J. Colburn, dinner, feathers, &c.,	1 15
Miss Fisher and Darrah, for rolls,	65
Hardy, Merrill, and Roberts, for butter,	10 60
Merrill, for poultry	3 63
Hardy, for apples,	25
N. H. George and others, for berries,	10 00
Wetherbee, for apples,	50
Bruce & Tyler, for butter,	17 79
Colburn & Hamlet, for butter,	4 90
C. Shepherd, for poultry,	3 31
Laton, for butter,	2 20
Eggs, turnips, pumpkins and apples,	2 60
Shipley, for rolls,	1 00
W. O. Noyes, for cow,	24 00
Boutelle, for lodging,	75
Boutelle, for feathers and iron,	1 85
S. D. Crosby, dinner and horse-baiting,	33
Champney, for turnips,	33
Fitzwilliam & Patterson, for feeting,	2 00
Coburn, dinner and horse-baiting,	33
I. C. Crooker, 9 sleepers,	2 07
J. Kinson, feeting,	1 00
Hardy, for turkeys,	1 62

Laton, for 1 hide,	2 91
D. Swett, for beef,	4 46
S. Kinney, for seed corn,	16
Z. G. Perry, for butchering,	25
J. Folansbee, for sheep and bull,	31 00
Boutelle and Wetherbee, for turkies,	3 52
Z. G. Perry, for butchering,	40
J. Folansbee, for chickens and turkey,	16 63
Cowhide,	4 56
County, for board of Michael Kelly,	12 00
J. Patterson, for mittens,	50
E. Wright, for rolls,	50
J. Kinson, for beef,	8 96
S. Campbell, for turkey,	87
Rider, for turnips,	20
Wright, do.,	25
S. Kenney, for drawing hay,	15 16
Wallace, for lumber,	3 30
L. Fisher, use of plough and labor,	1 00
Different individuals, for use of bull,	7 50
C. F. Wright, for horsekeeping,	6 00
G. F. Stevens, eggs and feeding,	5 25
E. P. Parkhurst, for butchering,	1 00
E. P. Parkhurst, turnips and use of bull,	1 33
E. P. Parkhurst, for labor,	1 62
D. Russell, for butter and feeding,	5 00

 595 69

EXPENDITURES.

Holbrook, for one yoke oxen,	\$125 00
Calef, for one turkey,	2 00
Crackers,	25
G. W. Moore, for medicine,	25
L. Fisher, for tar,	06
A. Jaquith, boot between bull and cow,	20 00
Crackers and tea,	1 67
J. B. Fay, one broom,	17
Store goods,	69
Hayden, store goods,	10 71
For medicine,	75
Store goods,	5 61
Wright, for labor,	1 66
Store goods,	61
Trow, for one yoke oxen,	130 00
Store goods,	3 36
Peters, for carding wool,	2 22
Blunt, for store goods,	1 49
Pick and cast iron sink,	3 25
Laton, for beef, &c.,	1 12
Repairing grain cradle,	25
P. Weston, for 5 pigs,	8 50

D. Russell, for medicine,	42
Crackers and turnip seed,	38
F. Nichols, for labor,	1 67
J. Follansbee, for meat,	1 10
Coburn, for goods,	1 64
J. Butterfield, for thrashing,	2 00
Wright, for labor,	5 00
Matches and axehelves,	65
Coburn for boots and shoes,	3 20
Pedrick, for mending churn,	99
Truell for onions,	50
W. O. Noyes, for meat,	2 92
Wright, for labor,	2 50
Carter, for $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels wheat,	5 00
N. H. George, for taxes,	62
Wright, for labor,	42
S. Kinney, for 2 cows,	70 00
S. Kinney, for interest on note,	1 71
S. A. Truell, for labor,	22 00
Boutelle & Crosby, for goods,	3 79
J. Follansbee, for meat,	1 30
Coburn, for tin ware,	33
C. Eastman, for fasset and labor,	1 70
D. Swett, for sawing,	2 90
C. Conant, for guano,	10 78
L. Fisher, for oats,	25
Tea,	50
S. Kinney, for oats,	1 10
Mittens, brass knobs, &c.,	1 28
Batchelder, for 2 cosset sheep,	8 00
N. W. Cumner, for coat and cloth,	2 50
Joseph Mace, for one steer,	22 00
S. A. Truell, for labor,	6 50
Axehelves &c.,	58
G. Walker, blacksmith work,	5 93
J. B. Fay, tin and wooden ware,	7 53
G. Small, blacksmithing,	4 90
W. O. Noyes, for beef,	1 04
Store goods,	33
D. Russell, for pain killer,	12
Crackers,	50
J. Fuller, for use of cider mill,	20
G. F. Stevens, store goods,	60 54
Hapgood & Abbott, store goods,	30 25
Anderson & Parker, do.	11 90
H. Parkhurst, for yoke,	1 00
N. Parker, for steer,	18 00
E. P. Parkhurst, for labor,	7 75
" " " for one bushel rye,	1 00
" " " for pasturing cattle,	5 87
" " " for butchering,	1 00

D. Russell, boot and shoe bill,	18 89	
" " for opium,	5 35	
G. W. Moore, for services,	4 58	
Guild, for opium, &c.	2 99	
Charles F. Wright, superintendent,	150 00	
E. P. Parkhurst, interest on money advanced,	3 00	
" " " stationery and postage,	75	
Amount of expenses,		\$849 27
Amount of receipts,		595 69
Balance against the farm,		\$253 58
Due from Horace Ingalls for horse-keeping,	\$35 00	
29 rods of wall,	29 00	
Manure vat and ditch,	3 00	
		67 00
Final balance against the farm,		\$186 58

INVOICE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE FARM
February 16th, 1860.

Stock.

1 horse,	\$60 00	
1 yoke of oxen,	135 00	
7 cows,	245 00	
1 pair three years old steers,	50 00	
4 two years old steers,	75 00	
2 yearlings,	16 00	
2 cosset sheep,	9 00	
3 shoats,	30 00	
29 fowls	8 00	
3 turkeys,	4 00	
		\$632 00

Hay and Grain.

16 tons english hay,	240 00	
3 tons meadow hay,	15 00	
1½ tons corn-fodder,	8 00	
1 ton straw,	5 00	
130 bushels corn,	143 00	
10½ bushels wheat,	19 00	
37½ bushels oats,	19 00	
1½ bushels barley,	1 75	
		\$450 75

Provisions.

3 bushels white beans,	5 25	
2 bush. colored beans,	3 00	
Peas,	50	
50 bush. potatoes,	17 50	

4½ barrels apples,	9 00
50 bush. turnips,	10 00
1 bush. beets,	50
Cabbages,	1 00
12 bush. carrots,	2 40
4 bush. meal,	4 00
1-3 bbl. flour,	2 50
92 lbs. dried apple,	9 20
2-3 bbl. cucumbers,	2 00
41½ lbs. tallow,	4 15
3 gallons pickles,	50
2 gallons molasses,	66
57 lbs. butter,	13 21
130½ lbs. cheese,	11 75
65 lbs. lard,	8 45
320 lbs. ham,	32 00
2 bbls. salt pork,	48 00
20 lbs. sausages,	2 00
150 lbs. beef,	10 50
79 lbs. " fresh,	6 32
16 lbs. fish,	80
1 bbl. vinegar,	5 00
½ bbl. cider,	2 00
5 lbs. coffee,	80
20 lbs. sugar,	2 00
2 lbs. spices,	50
3 lbs. tea,	1 50
3 bushels salt,	1 50
2 bbls. soap,	8 00
17½ lbs. rolls,	8 75
10 pairs feeding,	5 00
5 quarts grass seed,	50
	240 74

Personal Property at the Almshouse February 18, 1859.

Stock, shoats, &c.	574 05
Hay and grain,	316 00
Provisions, —	193 06
Farming tools,	191 20
Household furniture,	150 00
	\$1424 31

Personal Property at Almshouse, February 16, 1860.

Stock, shoats, &c.	632 00
Hay and grain,	450 75
Provisions,	240 74
Farming tools, same as last year,	191 20
Household furniture, same as last year,	150 00
	1664 69

Increase from 1859,

\$240 38

The increase from 1859 to 1860, without including the improvements, exceeds the demands on the Treasury by \$25.55.

EXPENSES OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

David Larrabee, for support of son,	52 00
A. McC. Wilkins, for Lucy Wilkins,	26 00
R. P. Leonard, for support of brother,	26 00
Rebecca King,	17 38
Mrs. Barnes,	15 00
Allenstown, for Simeon Russell,	30 94
Adam C. Butterfield,	43 08
Town of Lancaster, for B. G. Muzzy,	23 10
City of Nashua, for Eliza J. York,	19 64
	\$253 14

REMARKS.

It will be remembered that in my last report I gave it as my opinion that our town farm might be made to pay its own expenses. Notwithstanding the loss that we sustained from disease upon our cattle, which would amount to some seventy-five dollars, and the unfavorable season, the town must acknowledge that there has been good progress made towards approaching the era above referred to. In 1859 we called on the treasury for \$425.66 to balance accounts with the farm. In 1860 we ask for only \$214.23, besides \$35.00 that is now due us. The excess of invoice over last year will meet our demands on the treasury, and have \$25.55 left.

Our poor at the farm at present number twelve; average through the year, ten and a half. All enjoy good health.

In justice to Mr. and Mrs. Wright, I would say that I think they are calculated to manage just such craft as they have undertaken. There was quite a storm last spring, at the time they enlisted in our service, which seemed to them quite discouraging; yet being cheered on by their leader, they set sail. The clouds soon passed over and all was calm. They have enjoyed a pleasant voyage as has also the crew; and now at the close of the year, (every thing considered,) with more profit than any former year. I have felt it my duty to say to them, Well done, good and faithful servants; enlist for another year, and I will add unto thy wages forty dollars; which offer has been accepted, and on the first day of March, 1860, they again set sail, with the full belief that, Providence smiling upon them, they will do greater things than these.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ELIJAH P. PARKHURST, Overseer of the Poor.

Merrimack, February 28, 1860.

SCHOOL REPORT.

Fellow Citizens of Merrimack :

Your committee, in submitting their Report as the closing act of the public services with which you have entrusted them, feel obligated to express much gratitude for your general forbearance and kind co-operation in the discharge of their duties.

The report is prepared under circumstances somewhat unfavorable. Near the time of the commencement of the Winter Schools, one of the members of the committee, Mr. Jones, was suddenly removed by death, and some of the schools assigned to him, cannot be reported. As we enter upon the labors before us, we sympathize with our citizens in view of a common loss.

The duties of the board were entered upon in due time, with great unanimity of feeling, and with an endeavor to prosecute their work with all the fidelity the cause demanded, according to their ability, and as circumstances would allow.

The schools were divided into three divisions, and to each member of the committee were assigned as follows : Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 12 to D. Sawyer ; Nos. 3, 7, 9 and 10 to L. Ingalls ; Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 11 to C. Jones. It was necessary to make another division of the Winter Schools, and Nos. 1, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12 were assigned to the chairman, who reports the same, and the others to L. Ingalls, who also reports the Summer term in No. 4.

No. I. Both Summer and Winter terms were under the instruction of Miss Sarah E. Lawrence. Summer term the scholars were all small, none over thirteen years. The school appeared well, and may be considered as prosperous.

The Winter term embraced larger scholars, ranging from five to nineteen years of age. There was a lack of order at the commencement, but somewhat improved at the close, yet room for much greater improvement. There appeared to be a lack of interest on the part of some of the scholars.

Miss Lawrence has had considerable experience in teaching, and her attainments are very good. If she could combine a good degree of firmness and resolution with her amiability, she might take an elevated stand among the educators of the age.

No. II. The people in this district expend their money in one term, dispensing with a school during the summer. In consequence of the sickness of the teacher first engaged, the school did not commence until several weeks later than the agent intended to have it. It is therefore still in session, under the instruction of Miss Julia A. Bixby of Litchfield. The final examination will not take place in season to be noticed in the present report, but judging from the order, quietness and industry that prevailed when we made our visit near the commencement of the school, and also at our last visit a few days since, we feel confident that Miss Bixby's first labors as a teacher will be pleasant and successful.

No. III. The Summer term was taught by Miss Nettie Crosby. At our first visit to this school, it did not seem to be in so orderly a condition as could have been desired, but at our second visit, a few days after, there was a decided improvement in this respect, and we believe good order was maintained during the remainder of the term. Miss Crosby is a correct scholar and possesses many very good qualifications for a teacher, and if she was less successful in this school than in others she has taught in town, we think it was not because she labored less faithfully, but because of some circumstances entirely beyond her control.

Winter term, Mr. Charles C. Hunkins of Sandown, teacher. Mr. H. is a teacher of considerable experience, and enters upon his labors with a zeal and earnestness that is certain to meet with success. He was successful in securing the good will, and commanding the respect of his scholars, thus enabling him to maintain respectable order without resorting to severe measures. The teacher made no *preparation* for an *examination*, and perhaps this fact will account in part for the apparent embarrassment on the part of the scholars, who spoke in so low tones of voice as to be almost inaudible. It was pleasant to see a large number of parents and others present.

No. IV. The Summer term was taught by Miss Lydia D. Atwood of New-Boston. Miss Atwood's reputation as a teacher is too well known in town to require comment from us. We think the district were very fortunate in obtaining the services of one so well qualified, in every respect, to give instruction in our schools. She was assiduous in the discharge of her duties, and maintained excellent order. The examination convinced us that the term had been a very profitable one.

The Fall term was taught by Miss Sarah E. Lawrence, and as the school was not visited either by the chairman or second member of the committee, it cannot be reported.

Winter term, Mr. James T. Jones, teacher. It was late in the season when the school began, and at the time of our writing, is still in session. At a visit to the school a few days ago, we found many of the scholars manifesting a good degree of interest in their studies.

No. V. The Summer term was taught by Miss Josephine E. Holt of Nashua. The school was small and composed mostly

of small scholars. With greater age and experience, Miss Holt may become an efficient teacher. Nothing disastrous occurred during the term. Some unfavorable circumstances attended it, but all things considered, the school was as successful as could be expected.

The Winter term was under the instruction of Miss A. Jennie Parker. The discipline was good ; instruction thorough ; apparent good feeling pervaded the school. Singing was introduced and with good effect. The examination was highly creditable to the teacher and the scholars.

No. VI. Teacher, Summer term, Miss Nancy S. Colburn of Temple. Miss Colburn is an *earnest* teacher and has considerable experience. The examination was highly creditable to herself and scholars, and her labors, we believe, satisfactory to all.

The Winter term was under the care of Mr. Edward F. Johnson of Hollis. The teacher won the respect of his scholars. He has an easy, familiar, and happy manner of communication. Instruction thorough. Some of the higher classes appeared very ambitious. The school closed with indications of good progress.

No. VII. The Summer term was taught by Miss Mattie R. Tufts of Litchfield, and the Winter term by Mr. James T. Jones, both teachers of considerable experience. Each gave very good instruction, and labored hard for the best interests of the school, and while some of the scholars manifested a very good degree of interest in their studies, and made commendable progress, we were sorry to see others evidently unmindful of the importance of making a wise improvement of their advantages. During the examination of the Winter term, some of the scholars seemed to manifest a spirit of disregard for the authority and feelings of the teacher, which we could not but regard with the deepest regret. It is a fearful omen, to witness a lack of respect in our youth for a faithful teacher. It is painful to record an example of this kind. We wish to speak in the most commendatory terms of all our youth.

No. VIII. No school in the Summer. The Winter Term was taught by Miss H. T. W. Nevins, of Bedford. The school was small. Miss Nevins understands very thoroughly the business of teaching. The school appeared orderly. Some of the scholars would do well to strive more for higher attainments. On the whole the school was fair in its examination.

No. IX. The Summer Term was taught by Miss Amelia Henderson. Miss H. has had but little experience in teaching, and considering the large number of scholars in this school, we think she was very successful. If the instruction given was not quite so thorough as could have been desired, it was made up in part by the order, which was excellent.

The Winter term was taught by Lucien Ingalls. A school is always pleasant and profitable when the scholars are orderly and

studious, and manifest an interest in their studies, as was the case in this school. This happy state of things is to be attributed to the interest the parents take in the education of their children, and their consequent co-operation with the teacher in his efforts to make a school profitable.

No. X. Summer Term. *Industry, harmony, and good order* were the characteristics of this school under the instruction of Miss A. Jennie Parker. Miss Parker labored, and with excellent success, to perform *all* the duties required of teachers of our common schools.

Moral culture (so often neglected in our schools) here received due attention. The teacher sought to impress upon the minds of her pupils "the principles of piety and justice, a sacred regard to truth, and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society." At the examination we saw the result of faithful teaching, in the promptness and correctness of the recitations, and the general deportment of the school, which was excellent.

The Winter term was taught by Miss L. Anna Wilkins. The school was small, but we did not witness that dulness and inactivity that is so common in small schools. Miss Wilkins is very industrious, and infuses her scholars with life and animation. The improvement at the examination was very marked, and the classes examined gave evidence of having received very thorough instruction. The order and deportment were excellent.

No. XI. The Summer term was taught by Miss Jane Bowers. This school was assigned to Mr. Jones, and neither of the other members of the committee visited it. We have no data for making a report. We have not even had access to the register. Your committee would extend the greatest charity where no definite knowledge can be obtained.

The Winter term was under the care of Miss Lucy Bowers.—The school was visited near its commencement. The teacher's qualifications are not doubted. The school appeared orderly, and the scholars interested under her diligent and apparently faithful labors. The school was supposed to be in operation when it became necessary to submit this report to the press.

No. XII. Both Summer and Winter terms were under the care of Miss Nancie J. Woods of Hollis. Miss Woods has taught four or five terms in this district, and several terms elsewhere. She is a very industrious teacher, and manifests great anxiety for the welfare of the school. Her efforts have been successful. She is worthy of patronage by those who are desirous of employing good teachers. The progress of the scholars in this school was very good.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We have an organized school system. It was constructed by wise men. And that it may effectually accomplish the end designed, there must be a generous co-operation of parents, committee,

and teachers. There must be a mutual understanding, a kind sympathy flowing throughout the community, and a watchful care of the progress of education in general.

Parents, will you not interest yourselves in the education of your children, and by your presence often at the school-room, and *always* there at the seasons of examinations, lend your influence in removing all disorder, in the maintainance of thorough discipline, and in the full co-operation with the teacher in his labors ?

Use your best endeavors to prevent the tardiness and the irregularity of attendance that is so productive of evil in schools. Perhaps this is the most serious evil that retards their progress. It is with reluctance that we allude to this subject, yet our duty would not be performed should we be silent in this matter. Reform is needed here and is loudly called for. Hundreds of marks of absence and tardiness are recorded upon the registers until their pages are *blackened*. Look at the graduated table in this report and judge from that, if it is not time to attend to this subject.

We endeavor to make due allowances for the thoughtlessness and waywardness of childhood. But we are *too well persuaded* that the rude deportment we sometimes witness in the school-room, *must be attributed* in a great degree to the influences received at home. If children are indulged there, and permitted to regard with *indifference* the *commands* of their *parents*, it is *useless* to expect them to be submissive to wholesome regulations and restraints of the school-room.

We would suggest the propriety of appointing to the office of Prudential Committee, men who are the most interested in the welfare of our schools, rather than regard the rule of "*rotation* in office." More is done at the annual meetings of school districts in town, that determines the character of our schools, than all the other influences combined.

During the past year we think the Prudential Committees have been, as a general thing, very faithful in the discharge of their duties. There have been, however, some instances of neglect on their part, the recurrence of which we hope may be prevented by alluding to it here. In four cases, at least, teachers have commenced their schools before applying for certificates of qualification. It is the duty of the Prudential Committee to attend to this matter, and know that his teacher before commencing the school, has been approbated by the Superintending School Committee.

Teachers cannot be too particular in making out their registers. We have found some errors, that a little care on their part would have prevented. Have them ready to deliver to the committee at the final examination.

The importance of good discipline in school is obvious to the mind of every teacher. Order is the first thing that should be attended to. Without it nothing of practical benefit can be accomplished. It is true that rules can be learned, problems solved, and some of the pupils profit by the instruction they receive, but an early close of a disorderly school is far preferable to its continuance ; better for the teacher, better for the scholars.

Teachers should not scold or indulge in menace. Every loose threat weakens their authority and injures the school. Always say that you *mean* to do, when duty has become clear to your own mind ; then *keep* your word. If a teacher cannot maintain respectable order ; if he cannot feel that he is *master* of his school ; if he cannot secure the obedience of his scholars, either by persuasive or coercive measures, then we would say, *leave* the school.

We would recommend that the Winter terms commence sufficiently early to have all the schools incorporated in the Annual Report.

The Committee have recommended but few changes in the text books during the year. We found that Town and Holbrook's Progressive Readers were introduced into some of the schools, and we have endeavored to hasten their use in all of them. We have also recommended the use of Tower's Elements of Grammar, Cornell's Geography, and the Progressive Spelling Book.

The schools are subject to the control of the *people*, also the State organization. If satisfactory, let them have their sanction and hearty co-operation ; if not, the remedy is with them and they should avail themselves of it.

In concluding this report, we would say, we regard the past school year as having been a successful one. As a general rule, we have had efficient teachers, pleasant and orderly schools, while those of the opposite character have been the exceptions.

DANIEL SAWYER,	}	Superintending School Committee.
LUCIEN INGALLS,		

Merrimack, March 1st, 1860.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

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SUMMER TERM.

No. of District,	1	2	3	4	4*	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole number of Scholars,	17	43	21	24	12	21	18	17	17	51	18	16	16
Average Attendance,	16	31	19	19	11	16	16	17	No school.	46	16	14	14
Wages of Teacher per month including board,	11.00	16.00			12.00	12.00	18.00	18.00	17.00	8.80		9.00	
“ “ “ excluding “	9	14	11	8	9	8	8	8	9	10		8	
Length of School in Weeks,	11	146	479	95	4	20	12	12	88	8		34	
No. of instances of Tardiness,	9	4			1	10	3	20	20	3		2	
No. not absent half a day,	32	46	20	45	8	28	38	60	60	17		15	
No. visits of citizens and others,													

WINTER TERM.

No. of District,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole number of Scholars,	27	12	43	26	15	22	22	10	48	13	16	16
Average Attendance,	21	39	39	13	20	20	21	7	40	11	13	13
Wages of Teacher pr mo. including board,	20.00	34.00	24.00	18.00	35.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		12.00
“ “ “ excluding “	10½	11	11	9	8	6	6	13	7½	7		14
Length of School in Weeks,	50	123	7	6	116	9	9	66	70	33		42
No. of instances of Tardiness,	4	7		3	10	10	10	1	11	4		2
No. not absent half a day,	30	55		18	21	14	14	18	21	12		38
No. visits of citizens and others,												

* Fall Term.

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